

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-17 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
3. Claims 1 and 15 are allowable over the prior art because the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest the device and method of the claims having the feature of a charged particle impeding device between a source and detector to impede passage of secondary electrons and pass uncharged particles, where the secondary electrons are generated by charged primary particles ionizing the gas recited in the claims.
4. The examiner has attached on the form PTO-892 a list of references considered in the determination of patentability of the claims of this application.
5. Claims 2-14 and 16-17 are allowable by virtue of their dependency.
6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David A. Vanore whose telephone number is (571) 272-2483. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Kim can be reached on (571) 272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David A Vanore/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2881

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